

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th September 1904.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Ghar Bandhu* [Ranchi] of the 1st September says:—

Khawas Khan, an Afridi refugee in Kabul.

The Amir of Kabul has granted half a lakh of rupees to Khawas Khan, an Afridi refugee, whose son was murdered. He has given out that his son has been murdered at the instigation of the English, and one who avenges the murder would be rewarded. He has published a list of those British officers who should be killed first, and even if one fails to kill them, he would receive a few thousand rupees even for making an attempt in that direction.

GHAR BANDHU,  
Sept. 1st, 1904.

2. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th September says that the *Pioneer* understands that the Amir of Kabul is going to enlist another 40,000 Afghan soldiers into

BHARAT MITRA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

his army; 100 officers will be selected. The Amir has despatched to Herat four mountain batteries and some machine guns *via* Hazarajat and also some artillery *via* Kandahar. Four thousand Kabul-made breach-loading rifles have also been sent there. The Governor of Herat has intimated to the Amir the completion of the city walls of Herat which were commenced last year. The Amir treats the Afridi Jirgahs with consideration. These preparations on the part of the Amir make people think that the Russians are actually up and doing that way.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September asks, with reference to the orders of the Amir of Afghanistan to increase his army by forty thousand recruits, and to despatch a large force with arms, etc., to Herat:—Has not Russia's pride been laid low yet?

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

4. Having learnt from the *Pioneer* that the Amir wants to entertain an English doctor, and to supply the town of Kabul with gas-light, *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 10th September advises the Amir to look to the internal affairs of the State, and to provide against the dangers and aggressions that threaten from the outside, instead of spending his money on decorating the town of Kabul. The same paper says that when the Russian papers so often threaten the invasion of his territory, it is the duty of the Amir to increase his strength so as to be able to oppose the invading Russians. He should see that his officers learn the principles of warfare from the English, and reform his army after the English model.

AL PUNCH,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

Lai Naib Khashdil Khan and his brothers, with the permission of Sardar Ayub Khan, have started for Kabul. He has with him some applications of other Afghan refugees at Peshawar, praying for permission to return to Afghanistan.

5. The same paper has the following:—

The English Press and the Amir of Kabul.

The English Press, *ex necessitate rei*, suspect the Amir of being on intimate terms with the enemy of England in the person of Mullik Khawas Khan of Peshawar, now a refugee at Kabul, who has set prices on the heads of English officers at the frontier. They say that it is he who has persuaded the Amir to recruit his army from the Afridi Jirgahs. In fact it is a habit with the English Press to make a mountain of a molehill. The Amir is not a fool to become a dupe of Khawas Khan and disregard his own interests. It is but natural for the ruler of a country to admit a strong and heroic tribe into his army. The Amir did not send for the Afridis, and when they came they rejected his proposal to be subjects of the king of Islam (?). They were, however, sent back with rewards.

AL PUNCH.

6. The same paper is sorry that Prince George of Greece, now Governor of Crete, is making a tour through Europe with a view to induce the Powers to help him in annexing the island to Greece. Will the Powers shut their eyes and sacrifice justice? Certainly not.

AL PUNCH.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September says that for the purpose of promoting British trade in Persia, Government has made up its mind to incur large expenses after the return of the proposed "Commercial Mission" to that country. A new lighthouse will be constructed in the Strait of Ormuz.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

The proposed Commercial Mission to Persia.



Arrangements will be made for the security of the life and property of pedestrian traders in Persia. The British Government cannot surely afford to lose the present opportunity of extending its commerce to Persia and curbing the power of Russia in that part of the globe. What the Indians, however, fear is that the whole burden of the cost of the operations will fall on their shoulders. Lord Curzon is returning to India, and it is sure that he will not hesitate a minute to saddle her with the whole cost on the pretext of doing her a service. Russia is now overwhelmed with difficulties and calamities. This is England's opportunity to make up the loss which she has so long suffered in Persia owing to her own negligence in the beginning. The competition between Russia and England will prove ruinous to Persia.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

8. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th September remarks that the English have already established their influence in Tibet, and it seems that Lord Curzon desires to do the same in Persia also, and hence a Commercial Mission is going there. In South Persia, English influence would be really increased.

BHARAT MITRA.

9. In reference to a question put in Parliament by Mr. Phillip Stanhope, a radical member, to Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary of State for India, as to whether he was aware of the arrival, in Darjeeling, of Tibetan booty consisting of images of Buddha and other property from the Buddhist temples, to which the Secretary of State, with his eyes shut, replied in the negative, the same paper remarks that His Lordship thought it enough to give a nod, although the arrival of the plunder is an open secret and is much talked of, as if it was a difficult task for his Lordship to enquire from Lord Amthill touching this matter by a cablegram. The news regarding the distribution of alms in Tibet may be circulated throughout the world, but as to plunder, who is to speak about it?

The question of Tibetan booty  
in Parliament.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

10. Referring to the situation in Tibet, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September writes:—

The situation in Tibet.

The Peace Mission are using both threats and offers of friendship to make the Tibetan Government bind itself by a treaty, but as yet we do not see that they have had much success in this matter. We do not know what it is that emboldens the weak Tibetans to delay signing a treaty which is so much desired by their powerful British neighbours.

The Mission report that the present Chinese Amban exercises great influence over the counsels of the Tibetans, and that during the present crisis he is using that influence in favour of the English. We are also told that the citizens of Lhasa are now quite convinced of the honest intentions of the Mission. Everybody therefore seems to be friendly towards the English, yet when one comes to a question of practical importance, one finds that difficulties are cropping up in all directions. Who will explain this mystery?

Whatever the members of the Mission may say in public, there is no doubt that their position is daily becoming more and more critical. They are loud in their professions that there is absolutely no cause of alarm, that, as they are armed with weapons of scientific precision, and are experts in the art of warfare, they can have nothing to fear from the ignorant and ill-armed Tibetans. We confess, it is all this vaunting that makes us afraid that there is danger ahead. If there was no such danger, we would have heard quite a different tune from the lips of this "Peace Mission," with their inflated ideas about the might of Empire. They would not, in that case, have been so lavish in their praise of the Chinese Amban.

To tell the truth, this shameless extolling of the Chinese Amban is quite unworthy of the dignity of the British Empire, and extremely ridiculous withal. We, however, expect to soon find practical proofs of the great intelligence and diplomacy of the Chinese Amban. Has he forgotten so soon how the English have enhanced the dignity of his master, the Emperor of China, by sending an expedition into the country which owns Chinese suzerainty? But, then, the English alone have intelligence enough to appreciate the intelligence of the Chinese Amban!

So much for the peace negotiations. There are other dangers also which the Mission must face. The inaccessibility of the country and the approach of winter must be causing inward anxieties to the members of the Mission. But



they consider it wise to conceal unpleasant truths from the public view, and preserve a discreet silence. But every man who calmly reflects on the surrounding circumstances can see the facts for himself. General Macdonald himself reports that what the Tibetans could not do is being threatened to be done by the Karo-la pass and the Sanpo river. Snow has begun to fall, and every moment there is a risk of the Mission being cut off from the military base at Gyantse. On their way to Lhasa, the Mission had to suffer great losses when crossing at these two places, and it is impossible to say that on their way back similar dangers might not arise again.

Consider therefore the difficulties of the present position of the Mission. And it is needless to say that with the advent of winter, its difficulties would only be increased. Again, there is no probability of peace being concluded in the immediate future. There is therefore every reason for being anxious. When the winter sets in completely, the whole country will be converted into a frozen desert, and the Mission will be cut off from their base at Gyantse. Suppose the Tibetans choose this time to attack the camp of the Mission, how will the latter then defend themselves? And if the Mission rely on the Chinese Amban, there is no doubt that they are making a great mistake. We might agree with the Mission that the Tibetans have no more regard for the Chinese Emperor than for the Dalai Lama, still the fact remains that the Dalai Lama is the religious head of the entire Buddhist community, and that he is regarded as the very incarnation of Sakya. Therefore the fact that the Dalai Lama has been compelled to flee from fear of the British cannot be very agreeable either to the people in general or to the Emperor of China himself. Parodying Shakespeare, therefore, we may well say:—

“Macdonald! Macdonald! Beware of the Amban.”

Will the Mission listen to our warning?

11. Referring to the treaty made at Lhasa, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September observes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

The treaty of Lhasa.

There is a proverb—“All is well that ends well.” We agree therefore that it is well that peace has been made at last. This peace is advantageous to all the parties concerned. To the English, because it establishes their influence in Tibet. To the Indians, because they will be spared further expense on account of this expedition. To the Tibetans, because peace is restored to their country. And, finally, to Lord Curzon, because it establishes his claim to the title of “Conqueror of Lhasa” before all the world.

The Tibetans are now muzzled by the golden chain of affection forged for them by the English, and we are receiving a foretaste of the way in which the administration of Tibet will be conducted under the new conditions. We understand that a Political Agent will be appointed to reside with the Regent of Tibet. This appointment of a Political Agent is not a very simple thing to do. We can only hope that all this profession of friendship will not in the end prove deadly and disastrous.

It is true that peace has been made, but there is still a slight hitch left behind. Who can say where and with what ulterior object in view the Dalai Lama is spending his exile? When he will return to Tibet, will the citizens of Lhasa be able to shut the doors of their city in his face and turn him back? Will not then the terms of this treaty, framed by the English with so much care, be openly violated, as the meshes of a spider's web are rent to pieces by a strong gust of wind? We cannot foresee what is hidden in the womb of futurity. But our attention is arrested by the picture of the smiling face of the Regent when signing the treaty. Who shall say what that smile was indicative of—of good-will or of sarcasm? At any rate, for the present, we must satisfy ourselves with the thought that the Mission has gained its immediate objects.

12. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September says that the total defeat of Russia at Liouyang has produced consternation in Europe and quotes the *Standard*, which says: “For the first time for centuries Europe has gone down before Asia.”

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

European feeling on Japan's victory.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Sept. 7th, 1904.

13. Referring to the Police Administration Report for 1903, the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th September observes:—

The chaukidari-tax.

We have many times pointed out the highly oppressive nature of the chaukidari-tax, and can confidently assert that the existing number of chaukidars may be safely reduced, without any risk to the lives and property of the villagers. For, at present the chaukidars are chiefly engaged in doing the personal services and carrying out the personal behests of the police darogas and jamadars. They wait on the police officers and sleep off the whole night in their own homes. Then there are the dafadars, each placed over six or seven chaukidars. The necessity for the existence of this class of policemen is incomprehensible. The post of dafadar should be abolished, and the burden of the chaukidari-tax reduced proportionately.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

14. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 9th September says that in spite of the prevalence of severe distress in the Malayapur village in the

Chaukidari oppression.

24-Parganas, its inhabitants have been made to pay their chaukidari-tax for two quarters together. They have been obliged to sell their brass utensils and everything they possessed for the purpose. It is extremely inequitable to realise the chaukidari-tax from the people, because it proves of no use to them.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

15. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 9th September has the following:—

The police and the Police Commission.

We ask, what is it that the police do? They do not protect the people, but do them injury. If one has to lodge information of a theft in the thana, one must pay some money. If money is not paid, the person giving the information is imperilled by being charged with giving false information. The police exact money even when information of a case of suicide is sent to them. If the deceased has no relations, the neighbours are terrified into giving some money. Sometimes the police try to prove a case of murder as one of suicide. The witnesses in a murder case are tutored to give false evidence. If a witness be a woman, the Daroga Babu or the Daroga Miyan indulges in jokes at her expense or sometimes terrifies her by his angry looks. It thus appears that the police take bribes, manufacture false evidence, terrify the people, incriminate the innocent and prove the guilty as innocent, commit oppressions, drink wine, do wicked acts, commit murder, encourage gambling,—in a word, they commit every conceivable crime. If it be asked, why are they not punished for all these, the reply is, who is to punish them? From the chaukidar to the District Superintendent of Police, all are of the same *gotra* or family: there is such a clique among them that nobody can do anything against them.

It is difficult to understand what are the real intentions of the Government. We find that almost all cases sent up by the police attract the special notice of the Magistrate and, in most cases, are unjustly disposed of. But nobody appears to take notice of murder cases which the police, either for money or self interest, allow to go unpunished. Agitation in newspapers does no good, as Government is easily satisfied with the explanation which the District Magistrate may give. Government does not appear to be particularly anxious to get at the truth of enquiries improperly made. Are we to infer from this that Government is not desirous of protecting its people from its officers, and that it is for this reason that Government takes such a long time to publish the recommendations of the Police Commission? That Government is actuated by higher motives appears from the fact that it is so very anxious to reform the police and to detect their misdeeds. All this is very true. But why are irregularities and oppressions met with?

If some officers are appointed solely for the purpose of enquiring into the doings of the police, it will be found that the latter are not what they ought to be, namely, the protectors of the people, but are, on the contrary, their worst enemies. The High Court exercises control over the subordinate Courts, but what control is there over the police? Where the Magistrate is a strong man,



the police are to a certain extent under control. At all events, Government should closely watch the doings of the Police.

16. The same paper writes that a prostitute named Sarojini of Rangpur town was murdered, but the police reported the case as one of suicide. The Civil Surgeon, it is said, has reported that the death was caused by strangulation, and the Magistrate ordered the report to be filed. So the matter ends there. Six or seven murder cases occurred during the last three years, but all of them were reported by the police as cases of suicide. The general impression in the town is that a most diabolical murder has been allowed to go undetected. The police are worthless, but how could the District Magistrate remain silent without making any enquiry? Whatever the Police or the Civil Surgeon may have said, the writer makes bold to say that Sarojini did not commit suicide, and is prepared to take the consequence for making such a statement. Let the Magistrate himself go to the place of occurrence and enquire and the truth will out. The position in which the dead body was found shows that the death could not have been caused by suicide. The case has caused consternation in the town and should attract the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

17. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 10th September quotes the following from the *Bihar Times*:—

ARYAVARTA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

Police oppression in Gaya.

Ahamad Ali Khan, the Court Sub-Inspector of Gaya, has connections with a prostitute named Abbasi. Her brother, Mahabat, came to Lucknow and seeing two very beautiful girls there, wanted to abduct them to Gaya, to which they did not agree. On returning to Gaya, the matter was brought to the notice of the Court Sub-Inspector, who caused Gopinath Panday, a constable, to lodge a complaint in the Sadar thana that the two girls were creating a disturbance on the public road, although these girls were in Lucknow. A warrant was issued for their arrest and they were brought under arrest for trial. At last all the secret was disclosed. The Court Sub-Inspector and the constable have been suspended. Mahabat has been sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5. If this is a fact, the local Magistrate ought to have punished Mahabat more severely.

18. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September makes the following allegations against Ramjai Kabiraj, the new Sub-Inspector of thana Sakulipur, district Birbhum:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 13th, 1904.

Complaints against a Sub-Inspector of Police.

- (1) On the 10th August last, a case of death by lightning occurred in village Mahumudpur. Information was sent to the thana in due course. At 4 P.M. on the next day the Sub-Inspector appeared in a village two miles from the scene of the accident and ordered the corpse to be brought to that place for inspection. The order was carried out, but before the body could arrive the Sub-Inspector had returned to the thana. The persons in charge of the body had to wait the whole night, and it was next morning before they received any fresh orders. The body was inspected that day at 2 P.M.
- (2) Another case of death by snake-bite occurred in village Hât Serandi. Here also the corpse had to be carried about from place to place, before it was finally inspected at a place two miles distant from the scene of the occurrence.
- (3) A *Harini* of village Nanur was ordered by the Sub-Inspector to cleanse his privy. She refused, pleading that it would make her lose caste. On this, the Sub-Inspector had her locked up for a day and her hair cut off.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

19. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th September writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,  
Sept. 6th, 1904.

A complaint against a Subordinate Judge.

Babu Purna Chandra Chowdhury was formerly second Munsif at the sadar, and there were complaints made against him of incivility. He has recently been appointed



third Sub-Judge as a temporary arrangement. Unfortunately, his promotion has not affected his manners for the better. Complaints are still made that he uses uncivil language towards the vakils practising in his Court. He evidently forgets that these vakils are none of them inferior to himself in education or respectability. On the 5th September he had a District Court mukhtar turned out of his Court by a peon. Who will approve of such indignity to a man of the mukhtar's position? Such want of common courtesy on the part of this officer only bespeaks his own defective education.

PALLIVASI,  
Sept. 7th, 1904.

20. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 7th September writes as follows in continuation of its remarks in a previous issue (Report on Native Papers of the 20th August 1904, paragraph 11):—

Suggested reforms in Civil Courts.  
As in the Criminal Procedure Code the Courts are classified according to the seriousness of the offences to be tried, so also the Civil Courts may, with great advantage, be classified according to the gravity of the issues involved. As suggested before, there ought to be three classes of Civil Courts, viz., (1) Courts of first instance; (2) first and second appellate Courts; (3) the High Court.

Rent suits and Small Cause Court suits constitute by far the greater number of cases in Civil Courts, and the disposal of such suits is comparatively an easy task. We propose, therefore, that a fourth class of Courts should be established in which officers on lower pay may be appointed as apprentices for the hearing of the above cases. This arrangement will ensure a speedy disposal of the suits, which usually require a long time, to the ruin of the parties. Moreover, these newly-appointed officers will have an opportunity of acquiring experience and ability in their work, and may thus be promoted to higher grades as their abilities are tested. Promotions should be given, not according to seniority in the service, but according to the merits of the officers, who will thereby be encouraged to put forth their best abilities and energies in their work. Miscellaneous and minor items of business in Courts may be entrusted to them, and a great saving of time of the higher courts may be effected.

If our proposal be carried into effect, the number of Courts will have to be increased no doubt. But Government need not be afraid of an increase of expenditure. Government cannot deny that the number of Civil Courts is gradually increasing or that it will continue to increase. If there is a revision of salaries with a view to the reduction of expenditure, it is not likely that any inconvenience will arise. At any rate, our proposal possess this recommendation that the money spent will be well spent, that the Courts' time will be saved, and that the increase of Government expenditure, if there be an increase, will not be large.

In proposing to effect reforms in Civil Courts, the object aimed at should be to prevent the proverbial law's delay and to reduce the cost of litigation, at the same time providing unalloyed civil justice to the poor helpless Indians. Will Lord Curzon be indifferent to this matter?

BARISAL HITAISHI,  
Sept. 7th, 1901.

21. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 7th September adduces the following grounds in favour of the proposal of having a separate District Judge for Khulna:—

A District Judge for Khulna.

- (1) The present arrangement is inconvenient to both the districts, Jessore and Khulna. Take Jessore first. When the District Judge is at Khulna, the inquiries into the Jessore cases on his file are conducted locally, and the papers are then sent by a peon to Khulna, where the Judge passes his orders. The orders are thus passed in the absence of the parties or of their vakils. Besides, there is the delay in carrying the papers from one place to the other.
- (2) Then as regards Khulna. Some of the original suits are disposed of at Jessore. This is highly inconvenient to suitors from such inaccessible places as Satkhira or Bagerhat. Again, in the case of appeal suits, the parties do not know in advance when each case will be heard. Consequently there is always a good deal of difficulty as regards the engaging of vakils.
- (3) The *amla* attached to the Judge's establishment have to move about from the one place to the other. The small allowance they get



is no compensation for the sacrifice of ease and comfort this entails.

- (4) There is an Additional Judge for Jessore, Khulna and Backergunge. It often happens that while the Additional Judge is at Jessore, the District Judge is at Khulna. Government is thus put to the expense of paying allowance to a double set of *amla*. This could be avoided if the Additional Judge were to go to Khulna instead of to Jessore.

An arrangement like the following may therefore be made, which will cause very little additional expense to Government. One Sub-Judge should be removed from Khulna, and a District Judge appointed in his place. As the District Judge of Jessore will no longer be District Judge of Khulna, there will not be any need for an Additional Judge at Jessore.

22. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 8th September publishes the following in English:—

A case of interference with judicial independence.

Kajim Joddar, Sonai Sardar and Kanai Sardar were charged with certain petty offences under the Forest law. As the place of the alleged offence is situated within the jurisdiction of Satkhira subdivision, it was only natural that the trial should take place there. But Sir Henry Farrington (Bart.), who is the Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge of the Sundarbans Division, anyhow caught the idea that the trial should take place in Khulna, and so he adopted the unique procedure of writing a letter to A. Ahmed, Esq., District Magistrate of Khulna, requesting him to have the case transferred to Khulna sadar. One does not know what the Magistrate would have done, had any other person adopted the method of writing a letter instead of applying by petition. Curiously enough, the District Magistrate not only acceded to the request but passed the following orders:—

"To Babu P. K. Kerforma, Deputy Magistrate, who will dispose of the case against the accused present. Deterrent punishment should be inflicted."

And the result was a foregone conclusion. The accused were sentenced to terms of imprisonment unprecedented in the annals of criminal administration.

There was an appeal, and the Sessions Judge, Mr. B. C. Mittra, with his keen sense of justice, has quashed the conviction and sentence and ordered a retrial by the Subdivisional Officer of Satkhira.

This case may be a petty one. But an unholy combination of executive and judicial functions could not be productive of more disastrous results. A man was put on trial for an alleged offence, and the Revenue and the Executive authorities of the district made a common cause against those unfortunate persons. The ears of the District Magistrate were poisoned against them, and the District Magistrate, forgetting his high office, issued a mandate to a subordinate officer directing him to convict the accused and to pass deterrent sentences.

If the trying Magistrate had been independent of the District Magistrate, this scandalous affair could not have taken place. It is now high time that the Government should see its way to a separation of Executive and Judicial functions. We cannot conceal our feelings of indignation at this perversion of justice, than which nothing can be more unfortunate and disgusting. Everyone ought to know that the popular belief in the incorruptibility of British justice is the solid foundation upon which the British rule in India rests, and he who causes the course of this justice to run in unrighteous directions is a national enemy and commits a sin, a vice, a crime.

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September says that the District

The District Magistrate of Khulna and the local theatre.

Magistrate of Khulna is so very fond of theatres that he has actually promised to render pecuniary assistance to the local theatrical company. His *amla* realise subscriptions from litigants for the benefit of the theatre. If anyone refuses to pay, his business in the Court is intentionally delayed by them. An attempt was also made to make over the surplus of the diet-money deposited in Court to the theatre, but it was frustrated by the strenuous opposition of the local mukhtars.

KHULNA,  
8th Sept. 1904.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.



KHULNAVASI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

24. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 10th September publishes a contradiction of the above.

A contradiction.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes as follows:—

The Stipendiary Presidency Magistrates of Calcutta.

It appears from the last Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Bengal that

during the last year convictions were much more numerous in the Courts of the Stipendiary Presidency Magistrates of Calcutta than in those of their Honorary colleagues, and that convictions in the mufassal Criminal Courts were smaller in number than those in the Calcutta Police Court. In the mufassal District Magistrates discharged the accused in a large number of cases. What is the cause of this singular love of conviction on the part of the Stipendiary Presidency Magistrates of Calcutta? It was Sir Charles Elliott who first promulgated the no-conviction-no-promotion policy. And although Government afterwards explained that it did not intend to compel Magistrates to punish innocent people, yet promotions have since then practically come to officers who have shown a large number of convictions. Does not this encourage Magistrates to follow Sir Charles Elliott's policy to the letter? Do they not know why Maulvi Bazlul Karim is a favourite with the authorities? This scandalous state of things will not be removed so long as a separation is not effected between the judicial and executive functions.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

26. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes as follows:—

The question of the jurisdiction of Munsifs in cases of restitution of conjugal rights.

The decision which the High Court recently passed regarding the jurisdiction of Munsifs in cases of restitution of conjugal rights was only an

*obiter dictum*, because the question of jurisdiction could in no way arise in the appeal concerned. It was only on a suggestion made by the Counsel for the appellant that the Hon'ble Court remarked that cases of restitution of conjugal rights having no fixed pecuniary value did not fall within the jurisdiction of Munsifs. But this argument is untenable, because there are lots of cases of other descriptions of which it is extremely difficult to fix the value in money, but which are, nevertheless, included within the jurisdiction of Munsifs. The court-fees for such cases is fixed. For cases of restitution of conjugal rights, too, a court-fee of Rs. 5 has been fixed. A very respectable person once brought a suit of the same description in a Sub-Judge's Court and fixed its money value at some thousands of rupees, but he paid a court-fee of Rs. 5 only for it. This shows that the law empowers the plaintiffs in such cases to fix their values in money, and leaves them free to bring their cases before such Courts as are competent to entertain them on the values so fixed. Besides this, marriage among the Musalmans is a civil contract and *denmohar* (the bride's money) is an essential part of it. Valuations of cases of restitution of conjugal rights are sometimes fixed by the *denmohar*. Again, if the High Court's opinion is to be followed, appeals against decisions of Sub-Judges in cases of restitution of conjugal rights should be preferred to and entertained by the High Court only. Because the same argument by which the High Court desires to deprive the Munsifs of their jurisdiction over such cases would be equally applicable in depriving the District Judges of the power of entertaining them in appeal. It is hoped that the leaders of the Muhammadan community in Bengal will forward their opinions on the subject to the Government.

27. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 9th September says that

The management of the Tajhat Ward's Estate, Rangpur.

Mr. Pope, the Manager of the Tajhat Ward's Estate, keeps many sheep, but instead of appointing a man at his own cost for grazing them, makes

a servant of the Rajbari do the work. The Manager ought to be a little more careful.

Carts belonging to the estate are frequently employed for the private use of the Assistant Manager, and his father rides the estate's elephant to go to the Sahebganj tank, which also belongs to the estate, to catch fish. This is very unfair.

Mr. Pope did not allow the worship of the household gods for two days, and he has stopped the feeding of guests, to the great humiliation of the Maharani, who is feeding the guests at her own expense. The High Court having declared the previous Managers quite capable of managing the estate,

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.



the European Manager should be got rid of. It is not desirable that the estate's money should be thrown away.

28. The same paper says that on a complaint under section 408, Indian Penal Code, Babu Basanta Kumar Raha, Deputy Magistrate in charge, Rangpur, ordered that the complainant should prove his case first on the 26th August, but subsequently, in the absence of the complainant, another order was passed changing the date from the 26th August to the 2nd September. The complainant was thus compelled to attend Court on both the above days. Again, a warrant was issued against the accused, but the witnesses for the prosecution were not summoned, the Magistrate declaring that only the accused should be present and that witnesses were not wanted! The fact is that the Deputy Magistrate acted in the way he did only to please the District Magistrate. If the principle that only the complainant and the accused should be present in Court for the disposal of a criminal case be acted upon, it would be dangerous.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAN,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

29. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th September remarks that the number of cases in the Court of the Munsif at Raniganj is increasing so fast that arrears are accumulating in spite of the assistance of an Additional Munsif. New cases are coming in much faster than the old ones are being disposed of. Under the circumstances, it is to be hoped that Government will recognise the desirability of permanently locating the present Additional Munsif at Raniganj.

RATNAKAR,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

30. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September complains that the legal acumen of the High Court Judges is somewhat on the wane nowadays. Recently two cases argued before Justices Rampini and Mitra sitting as a Bench were referred to the Chief Justice on account of a difference of opinion between the Judges, and in both cases the Chief Justice upheld the opinion of Mr. Mitra. The decisions of the High Court in three other cases have also been recently reversed in appeal by the Privy Council. In these three cases also Justice Rampini was the Senior Judge. The High Court Judges should be a little more careful, for everyone has not got the means to go up to the Privy Council. We admit human beings are liable to err, but with a little more care there may be fewer mistakes.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

31. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September cries, "God help!" on hearing that the Sessions Judge of Allahabad has sentenced eight persons to be hanged for the murder of one man.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

32. Mr. Sims' case, says the same paper, has made the Anglo-Indian community somewhat uneasy. The Anglo-Indian Defence Association drew the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to this case on behalf of Mr. Sims, but His Honour has upheld the decision of the Courts. The *Englishman* is very angry at this. But what is the remedy?

HINDI BANGAVASI.

(d)—Education.

33. Referring to the new scheme of vernacular education, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th September writes as follows:—

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 6th, 1904.

Whatever is done by the Director of Public Instruction is accepted without demur by the Government, and it refuses to see even when the bad points of his new scheme of vernacular education are pointed out distinctly. Will not the authorities see that Mr. Pedler's new scheme is absolutely ruinous to the students? We have a right to call for Government interference in this matter, as Government is the guardian of the health, morals and intellect of its subjects.

Nobody can deny that Sir Alfred Croft, the former Director, was a man of wide erudition, a profound scholar, and thoroughly well acquainted with the peculiar conditions of education in Bengal. Mr. Pedler has introduced a scheme which Sir A. Croft did not consider suitable for the students of this country. Mr. Pedler's proposals therefore require close scrutiny by Government.



Or if Government prefers to leave him unfettered, it should first carefully examine whether really he has any claims to such liberty of action, considering his general abilities and experience of this particular kind of work!

Mr. Pedler is too fond of changes. He has upset the old order in nearly every branch of the Education Department. What the effect of these changes has been he knows best. Neither his own sons, nor the sons of his friends and relations have anything to do with this new scheme of education, so to him there can come no harm from it. But our case is different: our own boys are the sufferers, and we cannot therefore stand by without a protest.

The old scheme of education vindicated itself by its results, for it turned out students who have been found qualified to fill the highest offices of Government with credit. And yet this scheme is now considered to be faulty in every respect by Mr. Pedler.

Under the new scheme the little boys in school are taught Science, Geometry, Mensuration, Arithmetic, Agriculture, Zamindari business, and there is no knowing what more besides. There are History, Geography, etc., also. These subjects are taught in the vernacular, and the authorities are under the impression that, by the use of the vernacular as the medium of instruction, all difficulty in the way of the students understanding their books on these subjects has been removed. But they should know that these books are unintelligible even to the fathers and grandfathers of the boys, not to speak of the boys who have actually to read them. The Bengali translations of the scientific terms which have been employed in these books are perfectly meaningless to ninety-nine per cent. of Bengalis.

Another point which requires consideration is the multiplicity of the text-books fixed for the syllabus in each class. In no other country in any part of the world are little boys required to study so many books. Let Mr. Pedler answer from his own experience if such a grievous burden is put on the shoulders of little school-boys either in Europe or in America.

There is at the present moment a good deal of noise made about "Science." Government has declared its belief in the need for scientific education. But at any rate discrimination is necessary as to the persons who are to receive such education. Are the students of the lower classes in the schools fit for scientific instruction? Are there, again, teachers qualified to impart such instruction?

It has now been ruled that the middle scholarship course is to be taught in the fifth class in the entrance schools. But although every student in the class is to be made to go through the course, yet only one of them is to be allowed to compete for the scholarship. How can we have the heart to thank a person who can make such a rule? It gives an excellent indication of his sympathy for the students.

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
Sept. 7th, 1904

34. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th September has the following:—

The new educational scheme.

Every educated Indian is aware that the English officials are bent on making a complete and terrible change in the existing system of education. No sane man can call this change simply a change; one must call it a revolution in education. Everybody who has studied this question knows that the changes proposed are not confined to one or two points: what is aimed at is the carrying out at one and the same time of all changes it is possible to conceive of. People all over India, irrespective of province or community, are filled with visions of alarm at the prospect of these changes.

MEDINI BANDHAY.

35. Regarding the proposal to remove the Sibpur Engineering College from its present location, the same paper suggests that if the transfer is to be made at all, it should not be to an inaccessible place like Ranchi. Khargpur would be a better choice. Immense difficulties are likely to arise if a place like Ranchi or Madhupur, so distant from Calcutta, is selected. Suppose a student falls ill at any of these two places, would the best medical assistance from Calcutta be available there? Khargpur is nearer to Calcutta and therefore more within reach of the doctors from Calcutta. The great difficulty of Ranchi or Madhupur would be that medical assistance would take so much time to

Proposed removal of the Sibpur Engineering College.



reach sufferers in these places that the money spent in procuring it would be thrown away.

A great advantage in favour of Khargpur is its central position. It is the meeting point of lines leading to Orissa, Bengal, Chota Nagpur and Bihar. The town is so healthy that it has been selected by the authorities of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the location of their head offices. The landscape is diversified enough, for while the town itself is situated on rocky and elevated ground, the surrounding country is very fertile.

Railways and irrigation are the two important things that engineering instruction is concerned with. Now Khargpur is the largest railway centre in India, and the well-known Midnapore Canal is only three miles from the town. For all these reasons, the paper commends the claims of Khargpur to the favourable notice of Government.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September condemns the approved vernacular text-book, *Bangiya Kindergarten*, by Babu Kali Pada Basu, M.A., as a silly production

A vernacular text-book.

full of typographical errors, provincialisms, and errors of language due to the author's ignorance of literary Bengali, and quotes passages from the book to substantiate its charge.

Among the articles which the teacher will have to procure in order to illustrate his lessons from the book, and which the author says can be easily procured in the smallest village in Bengal, are such articles as "glazed earthenware cups" and "a colour box." Can the author, asks the writer, name some villages, large or small, in which these articles are at all procurable?

37. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 10th September pleads for the inclusion of Khulna town in the list of Entrance examination centres of the Calcutta University, and says:—

Khulna as an examination centre.

(1) Besides one college, there are fifteen entrance schools in the district. Some four or five hundred students are receiving their education in these institutions.

(2) At the time of the year when the examinations are held, Calcutta suffers from a serious epidemic of plague,

(3) The present arrangement under which the examinees in Calcutta are provided with seats in college buildings in different parts of the town is inconvenient to the examinees and the University authorities alike.

(4) Khulna is more easily accessible from the surrounding places, like Jessore or Satkhira, than Calcutta. It is healthy, and has ample accommodation to lodge the students for a few days. Its school-house, where the examination may be held, is large enough for the purpose.

38. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 10th September observes that a proposal is being made to establish a Musalman boarding-house near the existing Hindu hostel attached to the Birbhum Zilla School. The

A Musalman boarding-house for the Birbhum Zilla School.

proposal is not an unreasonable one, but the question is, is there a sufficient number of Musalman students available near Suri to run a hostel with? The boarding fee with tuition fee would amount to about Rs. 10 per month. How many Musalmans can be obtained, even from the interior of the district, who can afford to pay so much for their education?

39. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 10th September has the following:—

Construction of a college in Ranchi.

The Lieutenant-Governor desires to establish a new college in Ranchi at the cost of 14 lakhs of rupees, half of which will be paid by the Government and the other half will have to be raised by subscription. The opening of a college here would be a boon to the students, inasmuch as the living here is comparatively cheap and the climate good. The Calcutta papers are raising a hue and cry against the movement, but of what avail can it be?

40. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September has learnt that the military students from Nagpur, reading in the Temple Medical School, celebrate the Ganesh puja on the Janmashtami day, but this year the Superintendent of the school, Dr. Whitwell, gave orders forbidding the celebration in the school compound.

The Temple Medical School.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

KHULNAVASI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

BIRBHUM VARTA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

ARYAVARTA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.



He did not even permit them during breakfast time to go out of the compound to offer the *puja*. The paper goes on to say that one cannot understand this naboblike order of Dr. Whitwell's. He might have some reasons to stop the *puja* if the Muhammadans had objected, but it is said that the Muhammadans, far from objecting to the worship, had enthusiastically joined in the celebration. Dr. Whitwell has not done well in interfering with the religious observances of the students. He may one day stop the Muhammadans from saying their prayers. Is there sedition in this religious celebration? The Lieutenant-Governor and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals will be pleased to take early steps to enquire into the matter and issue proper orders. Should the above occurrence be a fact, the discontented students might one day do something very wrong.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

AL PUNCH,  
Sept. 3rd, 1904.

41. A correspondent of *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 3rd September complains from Bihar that there is no road, street, lane or bazar where one may not find heaps of

filth. During the present rains all the streets and specially the Sadar Street of Bihar town have the appearance of cess-pools. This state of things, if allowed to remain for a little longer, would certainly invite plague and cholera in Bihar. The latrines are not regularly served. The drain-water flows over the roads. The lamps are supplied with so little oil that they do not last beyond 8 o'clock at night. The higher authorities of the Patna Division do not even by mistake come to inspect the town of Bihar. The paper then praises the administration of Mr. Sander, who saw the town kept neat and clean and quiet.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Sept. 6th, 1904.

42. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th September reports that several villages under thana Gafargaon, district Mymensingh, have been suffer-

ing from water-scarcity since the year of the great earthquake. The following villages specially stand in urgent need of relief at the hands of Government:—Rouha, Pakati, Doulatpur, Rasulpur, Sandian, Noagaon, Prakasbandia, Athardana, Bakhura, Bharaduva and Charalgi.

BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September publishes complaints of water-scarcity from the following places:—

Ramchandrapur and Vishnupur, district 24-Paraganas; Changnapara, Rayjal, Katura, Oyai, Govindakhila, Gabargati, Bairkanda, Naopara, Baruipara, Khandan, Nalchakra, Charia, Kanargaon, Naigaon, Hariatala Hariagain and many other villages in the Mymensingh district, Gafargaon in the Mymensingh district.

DACCA PRAKAS,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

44. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th September calls attention to the inadequate provision for the supply of pure drinking-water in east and north

Vikrampur. There are only one or two small "reserved tanks" in Munshiganj thana. The District Board find money to build splendid offices for themselves at the head-quarters town, but do not attend to this primary want of the rate-payers. At least something might be done for the conservation or restoration of the big reservoirs of a bye-gone age, many of which are found all over Munshiganj.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

45. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September has the following in connection with the recent Marwari strike in Barabazar, Calcutta:—

There is a municipal bye-law which empowers the municipal officers to remove any heavy thing lying on the foot-path for a long time to one of its offices and to release it on payment of a fine. Our main objection is that although there is such a bye-law, the Government has not issued any orders to enforce it. Under what authority, then, has this law been enforced? The Chairman of the Municipality will be held wholly responsible for it.

Our second point is that should Government order it to be carried out, it would be considered as an act of great oppression. In other places, if anything is found lying on the road, the fact is reported to the Magistrate by the police. The Magistrate then issues summons to its owner and decides the matter after hearing him. It cannot be good policy to arm the municipal



officers with even more powers than those given to the police. The municipal employés from the highest to the lowest are the servants of the rate-payers. If these servants were to give trouble to their own masters in this way, such high-handedness on their part would become simply intolerable. The Chairman should bear this in mind when reconsidering the provisions of this bye-law in consultation with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

46. Referring to the strike of the Marwari merchants at Barabazar, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September remarks:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 13th, 1904.

When the Marwaris first complained to the Municipality of the oppression by Footpath Inspectors, they got the following reply from the Chairman:—

"I regret that I am unable to accede to your request, as it appears to me that Barabazar is the part of Calcutta of all others where it is most necessary to keep the narrow streets and lanes clear of obstructions."

They afterwards sent a second remonstrance on the subject, to which the following reply was obtained from the Secretary to the Municipality:—

"I am to inform you that after carefully considering your representations the Chairman does not see any reason to alter the practice followed at present."

The same representations which the officers of the Municipality at first "saw no reason" to take notice of, are now considered worthy of notice, at the request of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. If the Marwaris had not gone on strike, the Chairman would then perhaps never have seen reason to interfere. It is in this way that the affairs of the Calcutta Municipality are "well managed."

47. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 11th September writes as follows:—

RANGALAY,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

A case of Municipal oppression in Calcutta.

Babu Ananga Mohan Ghosal is the owner of premises No. 29, Balaram De's Street, Calcutta. His municipal rates had fallen into arrears for some time. For this default, two or three *Feringis* of the Municipal Office, attended by 20 or 25 peons, came in front of his house. The front door was locked, Ananga Babu's family having gone to some other place and he himself to market. The municipal officers broke open the door, went upstairs, forced the doors and windows of the rooms and brought out everything they contained. Lamps and lanterns were broken. The *thakurghar* (the room in which the tutelary deity of the household is kept) was entered into and the *naivedyas* (articles of food offered or to be offered to the deity) eaten up. About this time Ananga Babu came to the house and found all his moveables carted and about to be carried off. He remonstrated with the officers for what they had done, and agreed to pay half the amount of taxes due if they would not take away his moveables. But the officers did not agree to this. The articles were taken away. When Ananga Babu went upstairs he found the doors and windows broken, the plates of the deity taken away, his throne upturned, and he himself missing. We have seen this incident with our own eyes. Ananga Babu went to the Municipal Office and found his moveables stacked in an open place. He had not the means to pay all his dues at once, and so the articles were to be sold by auction. Does not all this amount to dacoity?

48. The *Hindī Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September asks whether the proposed scheme for the improvement of Calcutta will in any way help to remove its filth. The scheme submitted to the Secretary of State for India is likely to come back to India, duly approved, by November or December next.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

49. Referring to the proposed improvement of the Puri town, the same paper fears that the large amount of money which will be required to meet the cost of improving the town may be realized by increasing the lodging-house tax, and asks if the health of the inhabitants of the Puri town has become so bad as not to better without an improvement of the town.

HINDI BANGAVASI,



(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

JYOTI,  
Sept. 8th, 1904.

50. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th September complains that goods are very often stolen or delayed in transit on the Assam-Bengal Railway. The guilty employes are shielded by the Company, and it is only when the latter are threatened with regular proceedings in Court, that damages can be obtained from them. Two specific cases are given below:—

(1) In *Magh* last, a shop-keeper of Sitakund imported a quantity of goods made of brass, bell-metal, etc. When taking delivery of his goods he detected a deficiency in their proper weight. To his claim for damages, the railway authorities replied that the Steamer Company was responsible for the loss. On this, a regular notice was served both on the Railway and the Steamer Company, whereupon the railway authorities offered to realise from the Steamer Company the money due and pay it up to the aggrieved shop-keeper.

(2) On the occasion of the last *Sivachaturdasi* fair, a trader from Comilla was carrying with him as personal luggage, three baggages of cocoanut-shells, intended to form part of *hookkas*. On arriving at Sitakund station, he missed his parcels. He has brought a suit in the Court of the Munsif at Comilla for damages amounting to Rs. 105. Negotiations are, it is understood, in progress to settle this case out of Court.

RATNAKAR  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

51. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th September points out the need for improved waiting accommodation at Kulti station on the Barakar Branch of the East Indian Railway.

The accommodation at present provided consists simply of an open shed, without any bench or other seat.

RATNAKAR.

52. The same paper makes the following allegation against Mr. Christophoridi, the Sergeant of the Railway Police at Asansol. The Sergeant had bought some bottles of lemonade from a Raniganj hotel-keeper on credit. One day he appeared at the hotel and called for another bottle of the same beverage. The hotel-keeper was at his meals and told him to wait. Mr. Christophoridi, however, would not wait, and began to help himself to as many bottles as he liked. The hotel-keeper protested that unless he paid for the bottles he had taken on credit he would not be supplied with any more bottles that day. At this the Sergeant lost all control of himself and thrashed the poor hotel-keeper soundly and then left the premises. The aggrieved hotel-keeper is too poor to seek redress in a law Court. The railway authorities should therefore inquire into this case and do justice.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

53. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September mentions a case of incivility shown by a railway employé. It appears that on the 17th August last, when No. 20 passenger train arrived at Jamalpur station, a European named Hart was the Ticket-Collector on duty. Two up-country passengers were a little late in producing their tickets, which, after their usual custom, they had put inside the bundles they were carrying. Mr. Hart could not brook this small delay and used abusive language; on their protesting he gave them personal chastisement. The passengers complained to the Station Master, whereupon Mr. Hart admitted his guilt and the matter was amicably settled.

This is not a solitary instance, however. He is habitually guilty of incivility towards passengers. The following is another instance. The other day a passenger was travelling by the intermediate class from Calcutta to Darbhanga. When the train arrived at Jamalpur, Mr. Hart forcibly took down the passenger's luggage to get it weighed. As the train left before the weighing was finished, the passenger was compelled to leave his luggage behind, as he had his family travelling with him.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

54. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September sees another increase of expenditure in the constitution of the Railway Board sanctioned recently.

The new Railway Board.



55. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th September publishes conflicting accounts, from different correspondents, of the railway collision which recently occurred at the Machpara station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and requests the authorities to institute a sifting enquiry into the matter. Were there no passengers in the intermediate class and female carriage in the wrecked mail train? If there were, what has become of them?

SANJIVANI.  
Sept. 8th, 1904.

56. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September observes that rumours are afloat that at the recent accident at Machpara, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, quite a large number of people were killed. This has created great alarm and suspicion in the public mind, and it behoves Government to take measures to ascertain the truth. There has long been an idea among the public that in the case of accidents like these the railway authorities purposely suppress the truth in order to minimise their own responsibility. And facts have proved that there is some justification for the idea. The truth therefore should be found out and the guilty parties punished.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

Accidents on Indian railways would be fewer if the offenders in these cases always had their due.

57. In connection with the collision near the Machpara railway station of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September says that a man who was a witness of the scene reports that the corpse of a woman was burnt there, and that a large number of corpses were carried elsewhere in a brake-van. The railway authorities do not give a correct account of these collisions. If the heirs of the persons killed or wounded were to sue the Railway for damages, it would then come to its senses.

HITAVARTA.  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

58. Referring to the railway collision which took place between the Goalundo mail train and a goods train on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September says:—

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.

We do not understand this collision on the railway, which is provided with double line throughout its length. The Railway authorities have assured the public that they would institute a thorough enquiry. We are anxious to know the result.

59. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

Improvement of a feeder road.

In thana Sonarpur, district 24-Parganas, there is a road, a mile and-a-half long, branching off from the main road, belonging to the Alipore District Board, and running through Govindapur, Langalberia and other villages. This branch road serves some fourteen or fifteen villages in the neighbourhood, and the local school, public library, post office, bazar, and charitable dispensary are all situated on it. This is also the only road to the Baruipur and Mallikpur stations. Unfortunately every year during the rains, the condition of this road becomes so bad that foot traffic on it becomes difficult and vehicular traffic absolutely impossible.

Considering the importance of the road locally, Babu Bhutnath Chakrabarti of Langalberia offered Rs. 1,500 to the Alipore District Board on condition that the Board would take charge of the road and make it *pukka*. Bhutnath Babu's condition was that the road should be made *pukka* up to the point where his own house was situated. The Chairman of the Alipore District Board took it to mean that the improvement of the road up to this point would benefit only an individual and that Bhutnath Babu's object was not therefore for the public good. He refused the offer on this supposition. But the real fact is that, after the point where Bhutnath Babu's house is situated, the road runs only for a very short distance, and ends in a morass.

Bhutnath Babu in making this offer was not actuated by any motive of personal gain. He and his family reside in the Khandesh district in Bombay, and this is not his first gift to the public. It is to be hoped therefore that the Chairman of the Alipore District Board will reconsider his decision.



BASUMATI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

60. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th September calls attention to the need of re-excavating the Kata-khali khal in Falta, in the 24-Parganas. This khal served as the only drainage channel of the surrounding villages, but it is now quite choked up with weeds. The effect is that during the rains the country is regularly flooded and the crops damaged. The zamindars, far from doing anything to remove the evil, have actually made matters worse by leasing out for cultivation parts of the bed of the khal.

BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

61. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September says that the inhabitants of Tilkurhe, Mahisgarhe, and other villages under the Dhanekhali and Jamalpur thanas, in the Burdwan and Hooghly districts, have petitioned the local Executive Engineer praying that an anicut should be constructed across the Kana river between the Marampur and Naranpur villages. The proposed anicut would be of great service to the local people in connection with agriculture and water-supply, and as a preventive of malaria. It is therefore hoped that the authorities will grant their prayer.

(h)—General.

GHARBANDHU,  
Sept. 1st, 1904.

62. The *Ghar Bandhu* [Ranchi] of the 1st September has the following:—

The Ranchi head post-office scandal.

Two letter-box peons of the Ranchi head post-office, who used to remove the stamps affixed on foreign letters and sell them through a stamp-vendor, have been caught. The fact has been brought to light by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner having complained to the Postmaster-General that their letters did not reach England, on which the Assistant Postmaster-General went to Ranchi himself for making enquiries and found several foreign letters, with their stamps removed, lying under a box. The two peons have at once been suspended and many clerks transferred. This malpractice has been in vogue there for a long time. We cannot say what punishment will be inflicted on the culprits.

SANSODHINI,  
Sept. 2nd, 1904.

63. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 2nd September publishes a letter from a correspondent in support of the proposal for the creation of a new province consisting of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The following are some of the reasons given in favour of the proposal:—

The proposed partition of Bengal.

- (1) It will improve the trade of Chittagong and thereby open new avenues to employment for the local people.
- (2) Calcutta by its physical situation is bound to favour West Bengal in everything at the expense of East Bengal.
- (3) Better facilities for education (by the establishment of a Medical College, etc.) would result under the new arrangement.
- (4) The Assamese language would be gradually absorbed by the Bengali language.
- (5) The fears of a backward system of administration being substituted for the existing one are groundless.

In reply to the above letter the editor maintains that:—

- (1) Experience proves that the present tendency is to have more than one capital in each province, e.g., the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will henceforth reside at Bankipore as well as at Calcutta. Consequently, if the new province is created the new Lieutenant-Governor will have to reside at Dacca no less than at Chittagong. And as Dacca is already superior to Chittagong in almost all respects, it will retain its predominance.
- (2) As regards the improvement of the trade of Chittagong, this will improve whether a new province is created or not.
- (3) It must not be forgotten what this improvement of the trade of Chittagong really means. The few native merchants of Chittagong who now exist will die out before the keen competition of the European merchants who will then flock in. It is only the subordinate appointments in the offices that will fall to the share of the natives.



- (4) Similar remarks apply to the case of the high Government offices which will be created if the new province is established.
- (5) Calcutta is a city of cosmopolitan interests. Contact with its culture is absolutely necessary to save the people of Chittagong from parochialism.

64. Referring to its complaint about the incivility of Mr. Manmatha Krishna Deb, Joint-Magistrate of Tippera, to some of the *amlas* of his Court [See Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 3rd September 1904, paragraph 26], the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 7th September calls attention to another case of uncivil conduct on the part of the same officer. It appears that the lessee of a local ferry, Wajuddin Daffadar by name, was prosecuted under the ferry laws on the report of a Sub-Inspector of Police. Mr. Deb, when hearing the case, called on the Chairman of the local Municipality to produce the lease under which the accused held his ferry rights. The Chairman objected to produce the lease, as no prosecution against a lessee of the Municipality was valid unless the Chairman's consent to it had been previously obtained. At this, Mr. Deb utterly lost his temper, abused the Chairman in strong terms, and threatened him with criminal prosecution. And all this when the Chairman was no less a person than a cousin of the reigning Maharaja of Hill Tippera.

PRATINIDHI  
Sept. 7th, 1904.

65. The *Sri-Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th September publishes the following communication in continuation of what was published in a previous issue (Report on Native Papers of the 3rd September, 1904, paragraph 84):—

Mr. Beatson-Bell, Settlement  
Officer, Backergunge.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Sept. 7th, 1904.

As Settlement Officer, Mr. Beatson-Bell has become even more powerful and terrible than when he was the District Magistrate. It is said that before the commencement of the settlement operations he proposed to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that a punitive police force should be stationed in Backergunge. In connection with the settlement operations, he comes in contact with the zamindars, none of whom dare protest against the insults that they receive from him. Babu Kadhacharan Ray Chaudhuri, the well-known zamindar of Madhabpasa, was lately grossly abused and insulted by him before the public.

The manner in which the proprietary rights in rivers and *khals* are being recorded by Mr. Beatson-Bell cannot but bring the Backergunge district under the *khass* possession of Government. Rivers and *khals* more than 15 links broad have not been recorded as being under the possession of any zamindar. This must mean that the rivers and *khals* are the property of Government. Will anyone in future be able to recover the alluvial lands from the clutches of Government? The action of the Settlement Officer must ruin the zamindars, as the beds of the numerous rivers in the Backergunge district are constantly changing. But so irresistible is Mr. Beatson-Bell that the zamindars, though they are quite aware of their future ruin, are helpless in the matter. With what a tremendous power is he armed!

Mr. Beatson-Bell cannot bear the sight of native gentlemen who speak the plain truth unreservedly, but has a great love for the illiterate peasant. English-speaking Bengalis he hates, and he loses his temper when addressed as 'Sir' instead of 'Huzur.' It is said he abuses respectable men by calling them '*Sala po*,' i.e., the son of one's wife's brother. From the Munsif and the zamindar downwards, everybody is filled with terror at the thought of being insulted by him, when he goes to any village to decide a dispute. Every class of people is alike hateful to him, and he appears to think that there is no distinction between a native and a native. In deciding cases under sections 105 and 106, he does not allow any of the parties to engage pleaders. He indirectly gives them to understand that if they should engage pleaders, the result will not be advantageous to them.

Such is Mr. Beatson-Bell, irresistible and all-powerful, and the new Magistrates who come to the district are mere tools in his hands. As he was lately the District Magistrate, everyone is bound to be guided by his advice. Who attended His Honour and gave him a feast when he lately visited Barisal? It was none but Mr. Beatson-Bell. Whose hand was visible when a represent-



ative was appointed from the District Board? It was Mr. Beatson-Bell's. Mr. Jack, the present District Magistrate, was but a few days ago his subordinate. What authority and influence therefore can he possess? Mr. Beatson-Bell is a second incarnation of Lord Curzon. He took part in the withdrawal of fire-arms from Backergunge, he has destroyed local self-government in Barisal, he is putting down the zamindar and favouring the raiyat, he is insulting respectable men, he has raised an ingenious proposal for the transfer of East Bengal to Assam, and he is terrifying zamindars by personally going to their houses to raise money. In a word, he is determined to "drain the last pice out of the treasury," as the poet says, of Barisal.

But the question is, how is it that not a word is said in any of the three vernacular newspapers of Barisal against an officer who is doing so many unjust and high-handed acts? Herein we find the deep disgrace of Barisal. We have been credibly informed that poverty is the only cause of this want of moral courage. The *Kasipur Nivasi* has obtained the privilege of publishing the sale proclamations through the kindness of Mr. Beatson-Bell and others; the *Barisal Hitaishi* is under deep obligations to Mr. Beatson-Bell for the income it enjoys, and the *Swades Hitaishi* is afraid lest it should be discontinued for want of advertisements for publication.

A few days ago Mr. Beatson-Bell grossly insulted the Head-Master of the Zilla School. This fact was reported to the newspapers of Barisal, but none of them had the courage to publish it. What can be a greater moral degradation than this?

Lately Mr. Beatson-Bell saw his opportunity of pleasing His Honour and gave a donation of Rs. 1,000 for the water-works. But few there are who know the inner signification of all this. It is he whom His Honour styled "friend of the people." But we are not guilty of taking a narrow view of the situation. In spite of all his faults, Mr. Beatson-Bell is really a generous-hearted ruler. Being a highly-placed officer receiving a handsome salary, he might, if he liked, remain in town and enjoy repose without making any great exertions. But instead of doing that, he works the hardest from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M., going from field to field through mud and water without food and without any rest. It would be ungratefulness to say a word against such a man. He is most anxious for the welfare of the cultivator. But it is a great error and defect in him that with such laudable objects in view he sometimes puts gentlemen into great difficulty. As the result of this error the district will be ruined by litigation. But this is the instruction of Government, the Tenancy Act aims at the same object, and Lord Curzon's policy is also the same. In attempting to act according to the above principle, Mr. Beatson-Bell has made himself unpopular.

KHULNA,  
Sept. 8th, 1904.

66. Referring to the complaint about the need of more frequent transfers of the *amla* attached to the Magistrate and Collector's offices at Khulna (see Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 10th September 1904, paragraph 25), a correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 8th September gives three other cases of officers who have continued too long at one place, and require to be transferred in the public interests. These are—(1) the Sub-Registrar of Kaligang, who has held that office for over 30 years; (2) an overseer at Satkhira, who has been there for about 20 years; (3) the Sub-Inspector of Schools in North Satkhira, who has served at that place for 15 or 16 years.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Sept. 8th, 1904.

67. The *Bankura-Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th September publishes a contradiction of the allegations made against Babu Ramsadan Bhattacharya, a Deputy Magistrate of

A contradiction. Midnapore, in the *Medini-Bandhav* of the 24th August last (see Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 3rd September 1904, paragraph 62).

PRATIKAR,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

68. Referring to the new scheme regarding the appointment of Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates, as sketched in some Calcutta papers, the *Pratihar* [Berhampur] of the 9th September observes:—

The liberal policy of Sir A. Fraser. We cannot assert with confidence that His Honour's present scheme is absolutely free from defect. Yet considering the way in which he seeks the co-operation of outside agencies for the impartial distribution of patronage,



probably there will not be much room for criticism left in the future. The liberal policy which Sir Andrew Fraser has inaugurated in connection with the water-supply question, the improvement of agriculture, and other important matters may well lead one to think that God has at last been moved by the ever-recurring sorrows of the people of Bengal and has sent this great man as their ruler. His Honour's acts show that he always sympathises with others in their sorrows and that he cannot help redressing the people's grievances. During his tours in the mufassal the straight and simple replies he gave to the addresses presented to him were quite charming and refreshing to read.

69. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September says that Babu Syamlal Gupta, the Deputy Magistrate of Katwa in the Burdwan district, is so fond of *salaams* that he beat on one occasion an old man of 70, named

The Deputy Magistrate of Katwa in the Burdwan district.

Gayaram Sen, and on two other occasions two Musalmans for not *salaaming* him in the street. Gayaram was unable to find any local pleader to conduct his case, but one of the two Musalmans brought a criminal charge against the Deputy Magistrate at Burdwan. The case was, however, compromised through the intervention of a mukhtar. The other Musalman returned the insult on the spot and gave the Deputy a good thrashing. Besides this, as the Chairman of the Dainhat Municipality, he was censured by the High Court for his high-handed proceedings. On the occasion of the last *barwari* festival at Katwa, he, as President of the *barwari* Committee, proposed the establishment of a public library, to be named after him, with a portion of the *barwari* fund. The proposal was carried, but when the *barwari* was over, it was found that the surplus was not sufficient for the establishment of a library. In spite of this, the Deputy Magistrate ordered the Secretary and the Treasurer of the *barwari* fund to supply the deficit from their own pockets, and told them that they might afterwards recover the amount from the expected public donation in aid of the library. Two persons named Ramballav Saha and Ramdas Laha refused to pay donations. The Deputy Magistrate managed to implicate them in a criminal case and afterwards realised Rs. 150 from them. It is also rumoured that he even encourages gambling in the *barwari* for swelling the *barwari* fund.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

70. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September has the following:—

A *salaam*-loving Deputy Magistrate.

Hitherto it was the white officer only who demanded a *salaam*, and punished the offenders who failed to *salaam* him. The same disease is about to attack the native officers now. The Satan of *Salaam* has taken hold of Babu Syamlal Gupta, the Deputy Magistrate of Katwa. The other day he tried his whip on one Gayaram Sen, an old man of 70. The old man sought help of the pleaders, but none of the Babus vaunting themselves as patriots had courage enough to stand against such an ill-tempered officer. He flogged two or three Muhammadans with his own cruel hands. It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will soon think of bringing this Bengali of the Gupta family to his senses.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

71. Referring to the question of agricultural improvement in Bengal, the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th September observes:—

The question of agricultural improvement.

Sir Andrew Fraser has recently directed his attention to this question. There is no doubt that this is fortunate for the people of Bengal. His Honour has caused an Agricultural Association to be formed, consisting of some energetic and qualified men. But the mere dissemination of information on agricultural topics among the cultivators will not be enough unless the following points are attended to first:—

RATNAKAR,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

- (1) Improvement of the pecuniary resources of the cultivator.
- (2) Good drainage and a good system of irrigation.
- (3) Provision whereby cultivators may obtain land at a low rent.
- (4) Provision for pasture-grounds in each village.

Until these things are done, imparting instruction will be like putting the cart before the horse.

72. Referring to the scheme for making appointments to the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services, as published in some of the newspapers, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th September observes:—

The new scheme for the recruitment of the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services.

From whatever point of view the scheme may be examined, no guarantee can be found in it against the operation of family

BASUMATI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.



influences. Such a guarantee could be furnished only by a competitive examination. It may be admitted that the new scheme is comprehensive, but that also means increase of difficulties. It is not merit alone which will be rewarded now, for a simple B.A. degree is not always a test of merit. The number of Eurasians who possess this degree is quite large enough nowadays, and what if everybody from the Inspector-General of Police to the Director of Public Instruction considers the Eurasian more qualified than the native? Even the Police Darogaships and Jamadarships now go to these Eurasians, and they practically monopolise all the posts on the railways.

We can no longer afford to be satisfied with the mere assurance that none but B. A.'s will be eligible under the new rules. High education, we know, is doomed, and students of ordinary means will no longer be able to read up to the B. A. or M. A. degree. So, in effect, Deputy Magistrates will cease to be recruited from the respectable middle classes.

But Government might have spared themselves all this trouble. They might have openly declared that they would simply have men of their own choice, unfettered by any considerations of University degrees. If the son of the head *khansama* of the Chief Secretary to Government were considered personally eligible, even he might be appointed a Deputy Magistrate. The Empire was theirs, and they would govern it as they thought best. Considering that the administration of the country required no great exercise of intelligence, neither would the duties of a Deputy Magistrate require it. In the old days there were many Deputy Collectors who had a difficulty even in signing their own names, and whose motto was that the work of Government would go on of itself. Nowadays the Deputies and Sub-Deputies have to work under the direct eye of the District Magistrates: in many cases they are merely the executors of the orders of their superior authority. Such being the case, what is the use of all this fuss about rules and University restrictions? If there were any better method for recruiting the public service than competitive examinations, then that system would have been adopted in the case of the Indian Civil Service—the most lucrative service in the world! But, then, that service is a difficult body to meddle with.

RANGALAY,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

73. Referring to the abolition of competitive examinations, the *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 11th September writes as follows:—

The abolition of competitive examinations.

A fair judgment of merit cannot be expected from a system of nomination. It is possible only under a system of competitive examinations, and what will follow from its abolition in Bengal is clear enough. Those alone that have a high pedigree, or are rich or have influential men to back them, will become Deputy Magistrates. The service will be monopolised by *Feringis* and the relations of those who can influence the Secretariat of the Government. Poor men, however qualified, will not be able to secure appointments in the Provincial Service.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

74. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September publishes a letter from a correspondent making serious allegations against Mr. Thompson, the Subdivisional Officer of Deoghar:—

Complaints against the Subdivisional Officer of Deoghar.

- (1) Mr. Thompson's loaf of bread is brought over by rail from Madhupur daily, for which he makes no payment to the Company. The loaf remains in the custody of the native guard, until Mr. Thompson's *khansama* takes delivery of it at the railway gate near the Court-house. One day recently when handing over the loaf, the guard accidentally let it fall on the ground, where it touched his feet. The *khansama* reported this fact to his master. Mr. Thompson sent for the poor guard, boxed his ears in open Court, abused him, and made him promise that he would never repeat his offence.
- (2) Formerly carriages and carts used to be admitted inside the compound of the Deoghar railway station. Mr. Thompson has forbidden this. Respectable females are thus compelled to walk the distance from the road to the platform, and heavy goods have to be conveyed from the one place to the other by coolies at great expense.



- (3) The *pandas* have incurred the special ill-will of Mr. Thompson. Recently a gentleman of Carstairs Town complained to him that the *pandas* made his quarter of the town dirty. Mr. Thompson is reported to have said in reply that he would not mind if the gentleman in question shot the *pandas*. This story may not be true, but it is like the proverbial straw which shows the direction of the wind.
- (4) Mr. Thompson holds his Court at irregular hours—comes late and stays till 8 or 9 P.M.

Considering that complaints against Mr. Thompson have been made in the past, and that no such complaints were made against his predecessor, Mr. Piffard, an inquiry seems called for.

75. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September has the following:—

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

Income-tax oppression. The duty of the law-makers does not end with the making of a law only. It is their duty to guard against abuse in its application. People are, by the high-handedness of Income-tax assessors and others entrusted with similar duties, made to pay the tax due on an income of Rs. 5,000 when their income is not even Rs. 1,000. A complaint of this kind has been received from Sahibganj (Sonthal Parganas), where the assessors assess their income so high that the shop-keepers of the place sigh in despair. It is hoped the authorities will take steps to stop this oppression.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

76. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 7th September continues its remarks on the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill as follows:—

Amendments suggested in the Code of Civil Procedure.

PALLIVASI,  
Sept. 7th, 1904.

In granting proportionate costs to parties in suits which are partially decreed, the full amount of the unavoidable expenses should be allowed to each.

The pleader's fee in suits in which the claim is large is often a source of gain to the parties. Whatever the amount that may be actually paid to the pleader, the fees are granted by the Court according to the fixed scale. In the United Provinces the pleader's fees are granted only on receipt of the pleader's certificate. The same procedure should be introduced everywhere.

Sometimes a party to a suit intentionally incurs unnecessary expenditure in order that the opposite party may be put into difficulty if the former wins. In granting the cost to the party winning a case, the Court should not allow costs which the party could have avoided without prejudice to his cause.

If a witness does not appear in Court after receiving the summons, or if he refuses to receive it, he should be compelled to attend Court at his own expense. Steps should be taken, at the same time, to save witnesses from harassment by frequent and needless attendance at Court.

If a defendant admits part of the claim made by the plaintiff, the proportionate cost should not be decreed to the latter if he is held entitled to costs according to the value of the suit. Such a provision should be embodied in the law, as circular orders are not sufficient.

When several persons have different interests in any suit, each of them, when possible, should be made to pay his share of the costs, and a particular person should not be made to bear the burden of all of them.

When one of the parties to a suit owes money to the other, and the latter also owes money to the former, a decree should never be granted for the whole amount of the debt, as it is always very hard for a person to be compelled to pay his liabilities to the party who himself owes him money. Such instances are not uncommon. Many ungrateful persons take advantage of the Limitation Act to deceive their benefactors. When therefore granting relief to a person, the Court should consider how far the claim is justified, and a provision should be made in the law to that effect. The law of limitation should be modified, if necessary, according to this principle. It can never be fair to serve one man's interests at the cost of another.



HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

77. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes as follows:—

Government officers canvassing for votes in connection with a Council election.

Mr. Abdur Rahman, Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, and Maulvi Syed Muhammad, Deputy Magistrate, Alipore, actually canvassed for votes in favour of the Maharaja of Darbhanga in the last contest for election to the Supreme Legislative Council. We say this with a full sense of the responsibility that we incur in consequence. We ask the Government to enquire whether our statement is true or false.

ARYAVARTA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

78. The same paper says a law has been passed in England by which no

A law to stop the sale of cigarettes in India.

boy under 16 years of age would be allowed to smoke cigarettes, and that any one found selling cigarettes to him would be severely punished.

The Indians should also move the Government to pass a similar law, to stop the sale of cigarettes in India, inasmuch as their pernicious use is daily increasing among the Indian boys.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

79. Under the heading "Final Offering," the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes as follows:—

The British Government and the Native Princes of India.

At first we were so much charmed with the glamour of Western civilisation that we thought that such Native Princes as came in contact with European culture, civilisation, and forms of government, would be greatly benefited thereby; that they would devote themselves to the improvement of the condition of their subjects; that they would extend commerce and cultivate the arts and industries; that they would in fact change the very face of their country. Nobody could ever dream that, owing to the crooked influence of English policy, these Princes would remain mere puppets in the hands of the Political Agents.

The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 raised hopes and joyful anticipations in the breast of every Indian. Nobody could then foresee that the Native Princes were to be made to sacrifice their dignity at Lord Lytton's Delhi Darbar merely to set off the might of the British Empire, and that Lord Lytton, reposing in the cool heights of Simla, would use his knowledge of crooked policy to lay a trap to tighten his hold on them. It was Lord Lytton who first inaugurated the policy which has reduced the status of the Native Princes from that of allies to vassals; and also the policy whereby a Native Prince who hesitates ever so little to carry out the behests of the local Political Agent, or who shows the least sign of independence or individuality, is made to abdicate his throne and retire from public life.

It is astounding to note the successive steps by which Lord Lytton spun out the threads of this web, which was to enmesh the Native Princes. Immediately before the Darbar of 1877 he writes as follows to Mr. Disraeli:—

"Here is a great feudal aristocracy which we cannot get rid of, which we are avowedly anxious to conciliate and command, but which we have as yet done next to nothing to rally round the British Crown as its feudal head."

He continues:—

"To secure completely and efficiently, to utilise the Indian aristocracy is the important problem before us. I admit that it is not easy of immediate solution, for while on the one hand we require their cordial and willing allegiance . . . on the other hand we cannot certainly give them any increased power independently of our own."

The astute Viceroy charmed the Princes by the cordial reception he gave them at the Delhi Darbar, while he wound his coils of policy round them. The Princes walked to the trap of their own will, and thereafter began their fall in dignity and power. For the moment the idea of their being allies of the mighty British Empire turned their heads, and they could not fully realise the tightness of the coils into which they had been drawn, or their future fate. But with the gradual consolidation of British rule in this country, the coils have been drawn tighter and the effects made more visible.

It has now come to this, that the Princes are controlled by the English in every respect, be it their own education or their management of the State. Thanks to their new monitors, the Princes and their sons have become adepts



in the arts of luxury and ease. Serving Europeans and winning their applause, these have become the guiding motives of a Native Prince's life. He who deviates from this rule and tries to act independently so as to promote the welfare of his subjects and his own glory, meets with the fate of Jhalim Singh of Jhallawar or of the late ruler of Indore.

The little shred of dignity which was left to them has now been taken away by Lord Curzon. Formerly it was the custom, when a Native Prince personally called on the Viceroy, for His Excellency to pay a return visit to the Prince. But Lord Curzon, haughty Imperialist as he is, refused to observe even this small act of courtesy during the late Delhi Darbar. Formerly the Princes were free to visit Europe whenever they chose; now, thanks to Lord Curzon, they have previously to obtain the Viceroy's permission to do so. Lord Curzon has not even scrupled to inquire into, and make lists of, the hidden treasures of each Prince. In effect he has made the life of a Native Prince a burden and full of disquiet. Recently Mr. Weir asked a question in Parliament as to whether the Government has any legal right to regulate the successions to the Native States. The following is Mr. Brodrick's reply:—

"The right of the Government of India to regulate successions in Native States does not depend on any Act of Parliament, but is universally recognised and invariably observed and acted upon. It was in exercise of this right that on the deposition of the late Chief of Panna, in circumstances known to the Hon'ble Member, the Government of India selected Jadvendra Singh, eldest son of the deceased Rao Raja Khuman Singh and first cousin of the deposed Chief."

The plain meaning of it is simply that "might is right." The English have acquired dominion all over India by their superior power and intelligence. There is nobody in India who can oppose their irresistible might. What they will is law. It is because they are highly skilled in the use of language that in giving out the disagreeable truth, they clothe it in a veil of sweet words. Alas for the Princes of India, perhaps they were expecting Parliamentary interference to save them from the fear of being deposed unjustly, and from the thralldom of the Viceroy and the Political Agent. Now perhaps that illusion is removed. So then let them now be content and begin preparing addresses and welcomes for Lord Curzon.

80. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September says:—

Lord Curzon's visit to Kashmir.

The object of this visit to Kashmir is not known.

There was a question once of annexing Kashmir to the British Raj. Is it to come to a final settlement regarding this matter, or to go to Lhasa from there, that this journey to Kashmir is to be undertaken?

81. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September has learnt

The ex-Raja of Bilaspur.

from a Simla paper that the Maharaja of Bilaspur has now been permitted by Government to go back

to his State, but it is not known whether Government has permitted him to carry on the administration for which he had applied to the Government. It is but reasonable and desirable too that the young and learned Maharaja Bejai Chand be permitted to take charge of the Bilaspur State.

IV.—AVARTA,  
Sept. 11th 1904.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th 1904.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

82. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th

"The cry of despair all round."

September says that there is at present a cry of despair in many parts of India. Thousands of

people of the Beguserai subdivision in the Monghyr district have been ruined by the floods. In most parts of the Bombay Presidency and in some parts of the Central Provinces the crops are dying away for want of rain. Famine has now become chronic in the country, and there is no other country in the world where such a state of things obtains. During the last eight years there was widespread famine four times in the Bombay Presidency, and the Central Provinces suffered almost as severely. Nowhere in the world are such terrible sights witnessed except in India.

In a country in which the people are so overburdened with taxes, from which thirty crores of rupees are annually sent away to foreign lands, where administrative officers are imported from foreign lands on extravagantly large salaries, from which even the products of the fields necessary for consumption in the country are exported to foreign countries, what wonder that the

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Sept. 7th, 1904.



inhabitants should suffer the pangs of hunger almost every year? But Government appears quite indifferent. What can be a greater misfortune than this?

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Sept. 7th 1904.

83. A correspondent writes to the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th

Damage to crops in Midnapore.

September that the *ben* paddy crop in parganas Jalamutha, Sujamutha, Aranganagar, etc., has been damaged owing to the rains during *Asarh* last. The local mahajans, seeing the gloomy prospects of the crop, have stopped making advances of grain to the cultivators. Scarcity of food has begun to be felt in the homes of the agriculturists.

BANGAVSI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

84. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September

The breach of the embankment  
in the Krishnapur village.

says that on the 31st July last a telegram was sent to the Chief Engineer of the Embankment Division regarding the breach at Krishnapur in the Burdwan district (see Report on Native Papers of the 20th August 1904, paragraph 43). The Assistant Engineer, Babu Durgadas Chatterji, went to the village on the 3rd August and made an inspection of the breach in conjunction with Jugal Babu, the overseer. Durgadas Babu said that he would soon go to Calcutta and consult the Superintending and Executive Engineers as to what should be done in the matter. Five or seven days after, the villagers received a reply to their telegram from the Chief Engineer's office to the effect that, if necessary, the breach might be closed in winter next. Who will decide whether the breach should be closed? The village is on the verge of ruin. The panic is great and universal. There has been a complete failure of crops. Starvation stares the villagers in the face. The kind attention of the District Magistrate is invited to the matter. Fifteen or sixteen houses have been washed away by the flood. Narayan Bagdi's and Chura Bagdi's houses consisting of five huts have been entirely washed away. The houses of Bansi Bagdi, Karhi Bagdi, Hori Napit and others have been more or less damaged. Chura Bagdi's aunt and a cow were caught in the flood, but were fortunately saved from drowning.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

85. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th September reports a complete drought in the Punjab this year. The prices of grain are going up, and this is likely to affect Simla too.

Drought in the Punjab.

HITAVARTA,  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

86. The Chapra correspondent of the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th

Plague in Amnour.

September reports that the village of Amnour is suffering from a virulent attack of plague, and that the *bhadoi* crops have been washed away by the floods.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 8th, 1904.

87. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th September publishes, in Bengali, the substance of the correspondence between Lord Dufferin and Mr. Bradlaugh on the subject of the Indian National Congress.

The correspondence between  
Lord Dufferin and Mr. Bradlaugh  
on the subject of the Congress.

SOLTAN,  
Sept. 9th, 1904.

88. A correspondent of the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 9th September writes as follows under the heading "Hindu students' hatred of Musalmans":—

Ill-feeling between Hindu  
students and Musalmans.

We hereby let the members of Hindu society know that if they wish to win the help and sympathy of the Musalman community, they must give up their hatred of Musalmans, and abandon the use of the term *yavon* entirely. Otherwise Musalmans are by no means prepared to allow their reputation as a nation to be falsely calumniated in order to purchase the privilege of unity or friendship with the Hindus. The Musalman community are gifted with a large share of patience and toleration; but even patience and toleration have their limits. The Musalmans are creatures of flesh and blood as much as the Hindus, and the strongest of their feelings is a keen sense of racial pride. So they are quite incapable of forgiving anybody who gives publicity to any allegation against them as a race. The Musalman can smilingly forgive an offence for the first or second, even for the third time. But for the fourth repetition of the offence, it is the invariable practice of their race to kill the offender outright. Let the Hindus of themselves deprive the serpents among their community of their fangs. Otherwise the Musalmans will be compelled to take the remedy into their own hands. No



appeals for mercy or wails of distress will then avail. The Musalmans, however ignorant they may be, know very well how to check sin, misery, oppression and injustice on this earth. It is for this that we request our Hindu brethren to beware in time, and be ashamed and repentant for the injustices they have done to their Musalman neighbours. Otherwise the sequel will be indeed terrible.

89. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th September says that hitherto speculations in Calcutta were confined to silver, opium, linseed and wheat, etc., but not cloth.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

Speculations in Calcutta.

We hear they have now commenced speculating in cloth also.

90. The same paper says that India has become a permanent abode of famine, but if one were to speak about it, the high officials would at once say that the country is

Prevention of famines in India.

prosperous and the people happy. But when severe famines come in they become a little anxious and devise some very peculiar means to meet them. They suggest the cultivation of such plants as may yield food during scarcity. The Indians already know enough about these plants, but it is not grain that is wanted in India, but money wherewith to purchase the same. It is for want of money that they die of starvation. If the British Government would stop for a few years the annual drain of about 30 crores of rupees remitted to England as home charges, and could curtail their extravagant expenditure to a certain extent they could for ever save the people of this country from the ravages of famines. But our regret is that the luxurious habits of the English nation have increased so much that they cannot afford to sacrifice their own interests.

BHARAT MITRA.

91. The same paper makes the following remarks concerning the arrival of Mr. Sandow, the well-known European athlete, in India with a view not only to deliver lectures

Mr. Sandow in India.

on the utility of physical exercise, but also to devise means in consultation with the officials to make the youths of this country physically strong. In this way he would realize a good deal of money from the well-to-do people. What can he do to improve the health and strength of the starving sons of India? What is wanted in India is not athletics, but food.

BHARAT MITRA.

Who can become strong and stout by simply listening to his lectures? Of course he can do something in that way, if he were to visit villages with cartful of grain with him.

92. It is rumoured, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September that the great cannon named Dulimarthan, which decorates the Bankura-Vishnupur Rajbati, and is regarded by the local people as a sacred relic of

The great cannon at Vishnupur.

the past glories of Vishnupur, will be removed to the Victoria Memorial Hall. The cannon is actually adored by the Vishnupur people with flowers and perfumes, and the thought of its removal has greatly alarmed them. It is hoped that the rumour will prove false.

BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

93. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September has learnt that the people of Vishnupur in Bankura are very much agitated to hear that the big gun there, which is never fired but worshipped as an idol, is to be removed to the Victoria Memorial Hall at Calcutta, and exhibited there as a curiosity. The Victoria Memorial Hall of Lord Curzon would have many more such things?

Proposed removal of the cannon from Vishnupur.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th 1904.

94. It is to be greatly regretted, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th September, that India found no place in His Majesty's speech from the Throne. In the midst of the great calamities which now beset the Indians—deluge, drought, locusts, famine, pestilence, plague, malaria, etc.—some sweet words from the Throne would have consoled them to a great extent.

The speech from the Throne.

BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 10th 1904.

95. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September is sorry that the speech which His Majesty the King-Emperor of India delivered when closing the British Parliament contained no reference to the poverty-stricken people of India. Just now the Indian subjects of His Majesty are suffering from a hundred calamities. A few words of hope

The speech from the Throne on the occasion of the prorogation of Parliament.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 12th, 1904.



and consolation at such a time from His Majesty would certainly have proved a soothing balm to their lacerated hearts.

**BNARAT MITRA.**  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

96. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th September has the following:—

Appointment of a Babu in Bara Bazar by the "Vaishya Sabha."

The "Vaishya Sabha" of Bara Bazar has appointed a well-educated Babu for the convenience of the Bara Bazar public to write out petitions, and notified to the public that if they have any complaint against the Municipality, the Railway or the Police, they may have petitions written for them free of charge. The Bara Bazar people always suffer from rubbish lying on the roads, the bad smell of sewage, and the want of sufficient light and water. Not knowing English, the majority of the people were hitherto simply helpless.

**ARYAVARTA,**  
Sept. 10th, 1904.

97. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 10th September says there has been good rain here during this week, which has considerably improved the prospects. Nothing is yet known of the Post Office scandal. His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor at Ranchi.

presided at the prize distribution to the successful candidates in the Zilla School and made a suitable speech when giving away the prizes. He deserves to be thanked for kindly promising a medal to the boy who stands first at the Entrance Examination from the Ranchi Zilla School. The attention of the Municipality is sometimes diverted from the sanitation of the town. The Vice-Chairman should attend to it.

**HITAVARTA.**  
Sept. 11th, 1904.

98. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th September says that the popula-

A contrast between Canada and India.

tion of Canada appears insignificant when compared with that of India. Canada was a French colony once, and even now the majority of the inhabitants are French. The English are becoming anxious to keep the handful of Frenchmen well contented, but they do not care a bit whether the 30 crores of Indians are happy or not. How many Englishmen are there who think of allowing the Indians their just rights and preventing the waste of India's money? When a good and popular Governor like Lord Ripon retired, did anybody think for a while whether the people would be happy or unhappy under Lord Dufferin's Government? Was the opinion of the Indians considered when appointing Lord Curzon for a second time as Governor-General of India? Still they say that the Indians are a discontented and ungrateful lot. Canada and Australia were granted Parliaments because of their firm attitude, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales himself officiated at the opening ceremony. Here even the Coronation was celebrated by Lord Curzon. This is all due to our ill-luck. It is rightly said of Deval Devi that "Beauty was her danger." In the same way the blind loyalty, simplicity of heart, and the forbearance of the Indians have been the cause of their misery.

**HITAVARTA.**

99. The same paper in announcing the date and place of celebrating the Sivaji festival in Calcutta, says:—Though Maharaj

The Sivaji festival.

Sivaji was a Maratha, considering the necessity, the times and the country, the people of the whole of India have come to show him due regard and honour, inasmuch as the people of Bengal, too, soothe their dry and aching heart by recalling to mind his heroic virtues.

**HITAVARTA.**

100. The same paper says:—

Addresses to Viceroy.

It is now a common practice to present addresses to the Viceroy; but the people of Canada (America) are not so thoughtless. Viceroy who receive addresses at their hands consider themselves really fortunate.

To please the Canadians is not an easy task. They do not part with their rights in any way. To maintain his position there becomes an impossible task for an official unless he be very careful. Lord Minto had gone to Canada as Viceroy in 1878. The people were much satisfied with him. The statesmen there have therefore given him an address.

The term of his Viceroyalty having expired, Lord Minto has been succeeded by Earl Grey. It is feared he is not likely to come up to the high standard of governorship which Lord Minto has impressed on the minds of the Canadians, and this is giving cause of anxiety to British statesmen.



101. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September says that Ranchi is going to have many costly buildings. Besides the proposed General and Engineering Colleges, there will be a big Lunatic Asylum also. HINDI BANGAVASI.  
Sept. 12th, 1904.
102. Regarding the question of presenting an address of welcome to Lord Curzon on his arrival at Bombay, about which a controversy is at present going on among the people of Bombay, the same paper is at one with those who are in favour of presenting the address, and says that India has, from time immemorial, been a loyal country and a believer in fate. Lord Curzon, be he what he may, is coming to India as a representative of her Sovereign. It is our duty to welcome him. Let His Lordship do what he likes, the subject people should by no means fail in their duty. HINDI BANGAVASI.

## URIYA PAPERS.

103. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd September states that in the last week the sky was cloudy and rain fell at times. UTKALDIPIKA,  
Sept. 3rd, 1904.
104. The same paper states that the health of Cuttack town is good. UTKALDIPIKA.
105. The same paper states that there being 17 feet of water in the Kathjuri river and the embankment near Sarichna having been breached at three places, *beali*, *mandia* and other crops were destroyed, and that it is probable that the *sarad* paddy will fare no better. UTKALDIPIKA.
106. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that flood-water having passed frequently through the Janardan, Kutchory, and Simili *ghais* or outlets, the *beali* paddy in parganas Olas, Kalamatia, Dolagram, etc., has been much damaged and the *sarad* paddy has been to some extent injured. Some cultivators are practically unable to re-sow their inundated lands for want of seeds. UTKALDIPIKA.
107. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that floods in rivers and regular rainfall in that district have much benefited the standing crops. UTKALDIPIKA.
108. The Rantrapur correspondents of the same paper are sorry to note that the breach in the Kathjuri embankment near Rantrapur, commonly known as "Simili *ghai*" has been a source of great mischief to the residents of mauzas Rantrapur, Govindapur, Purusottampur, Kalpara, Dahigan, Tainkana, Bentkar, Sisua, and Patua, whose standing crops have been all washed away. The writer draws the attention of the local authorities to the same, and hopes that Government will take steps to repair the embankment, as the repeated attempts of the residents to do the same failed. UTKALDIPIKA.
109. Referring to the work of an English company engaged in mining gold, silver and copper in Kashmir, the same paper points out that the Indians should profit by their example and do the same work themselves. The Indians can never prosper if they allow their country to be thus exploited by foreigners. UTKALDIPIKA.
110. The same paper approves of the appointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt, C.I.E., as the First Member of the Darbar of the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, and hopes that the first of the appointment will no doubt be encouraging. The writer further hopes that Mr. Dutt may find time to continue the work he began in England of making Englishmen at home interested in Indian questions. UTKALDIPIKA.
111. The same paper publishes a telegram received from Dharacote, describing the rejoicings that took place there on the night of the 29th August last in honour of the birth of the heir-apparent to the Raj. The writer states that the Uriya public have every sympathy with the Dharacote State, which is a Uriya principality. UTKALDIPIKA.



UTKALDIPKA.

112. The same paper is of opinion that the privilege of interpellating Municipal Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in Municipal Councils, which it is proposed to grant to the Municipal Commissioners, will no doubt prove a valuable one and will make the latter much more interested in the administration of Municipalities put in their charge.

The right of interpellation in Municipalities.

UTKALDIPKA.

Appointments in the Calcutta Municipality.

113. Referring to the appointments made by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation in the past few years, the same paper points out that the best emoluments have all along been in the hands of the Europeans and Eurasians. Indians are nowhere in the higher grades. This is no doubt a fine satire on the self governing character of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, which has absorbed the principle of education into its constitution.

UTKALDIPKA.

The Bengal Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill.

114. The same paper strongly opposes the Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill which it is in contemplation to place before the Legislative Council of Bengal for discussion and adoption. The writer is of opinion that the people of Bengal are already overburdened with taxes, and that they are not in a position to pay any more rates. To levy any more taxes on the landed interest will be an act of tyranny on the part of Government. Seeing that the Government is always busy to improve the condition of the agriculturist, whom it thinks to be in abject poverty, the writer is at a loss to divine the reason that induces Government to impose further taxes on him.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Sept. 1st, 1904.

The weather and the crops.

115. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 1st September states that in the last week the sky was cloudy and there were good showers of rain almost in every part of the Balasore district, that the state of the paddy crop is good, and that all will be well if it rains regularly for one month more.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

The new rules for upper primary and middle scholarships for girls.

116. Referring to the recent notification over the signature of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, relaxing the rules governing the distribution of upper primary and middle scholarships in favour of Hindu and Muhammadan girls, the same paper is of opinion that the new arrangement will help many Indian girls to read a higher course of studies in spite of many social restrictions to which they are subject.

URIYA AND NAVA  
SAMVAD,  
Aug. 24th, 1904.

The paddy crop in Balasore.

117. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 24th August states that weeding and transplantation of *sarad* paddy in the Balasore district are proceeding.

URIYA AND NAVA  
SAMVAD.

The Balasore Municipality.

118. The same paper is glad to note that the Sanitary Commissioner paid a visit to the Balasore Municipality and was pleased with its management under the presidency of Mr. Egerton, the District Officer of Balasore. The income of the Municipality has improved and other minor improvements are also visible.

URIYA AND NAVA  
SAMVAD.

Uriya as the State language of Gangpur.

119. The same paper agrees with its Gangpur correspondent that Uriya should be taught in the schools of that State, and that Uriya should be made its court language. The State is essentially Uriya, and Hindi must not be forced on it.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK.  
Sept. 4th, 1904.

120. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 4th September observes that when

The chaukidari-tax.

the new Chaukidari Regulation was promulgated, the public hoped for great good from it. But experience proves that the present state is worse than the last. For though the taxes have been doubled or trebled, no return is obtained for it. There is no fixity in the rate of the tax. The chaukidars do not go out to patrol their beats at night, though they are required by law to do so. The interference of the Subdivisional Officer is required.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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